



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

PUERTO RICAN PREDATOR SENTENCED TO 30 YEARS FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico— A 24-year-old predator who pleaded guilty to charges of sexual exploitation against a four-year-old girl was sentenced here today to 30 years in prison following an investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Jose Carrion-Vazquez, of Gurabo, Puerto Rico pleaded guilty on Oct. 31, 2005 to the sexual exploitation of children in violation of Title 18, United States Code (USC), Sections 2251 and 2252 (a).

U.S. District Judge Hector Lafitte handed down the 30-year sentence that will be followed by supervised release for life.

ICE agents initiated an investigation in Dec. 2003. The investigation led to the execution of a search warrant at Carrion-Vazquez' residence. Agents discovered several electronic media containing child pornography and videos of an adult committing lascivious acts against a minor. Carrion-Vazquez was subsequently arrested in January 2004.

According to the Jan. 2004 two-count indictment, Carrion-Vazquez coerced, persuaded and induced the four-year-old girl to engage in vaginal, anal and oral sex and the lascivious exhibition of her genitals while she was blindfolded. The indictment further alleged that Carrion-Vazquez engaged in the sexual acts with the girl for the purpose of producing a visual depiction.

"Predators who hurt children, our most vulnerable citizens, must know that we will not rest until they are brought to justice," said Lydia St. John-Mellado, acting special agent-in-charge of ICE's Office of Investigations in Puerto Rico. "I cannot describe with words the horrendous and despicable crime that this man committed. This monster must now sit in jail for the next 30 years to think about the irreparable harm that he caused to an innocent child and her entire family. Predators like Carrion-Vazquez should know that they too will face a similar fate if they hurt our children."

Carrion-Vazquez' arrest was part of a nationwide initiative known as Operation Predator. Operation Predator protects our children from sexual predators, including those who travel across continents to

have sex with minors. Internet child pornographers and criminal alien sex offenders and child traffickers are also a priority for ICE. Since the initiative was launched in July of 2003, there have been more than 6,500 individuals arrested nationwide.

ICE encourages anyone who wants to report suspicious activity of suspected child predators and suspicious activity through our toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. Investigators staff this hotline around the clock.

Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.